## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) An-isolated staple oligonucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, which is a single-stranded oligonucleotide comprising a 5'-end sequence, an intermediate sequence and a 3'-end sequence, the 5'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence, the 3'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence and the intermediate sequence having loops at both ends, and wherein the loops do not form an intramolecular complementary bond.

Claims 2-8 (canceled)

(previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, whose phosphate groups are not phosphorothioated.

Claims 10-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, which is represented by the structural formula:

wherein the vertical line is a non-binding site between the 5' end and <u>the</u> 3' end of the staple oligonucleotide.